

Application No. 10/601,041  
Amdt. Dated Dec. 13, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A skimmer basket weight comprising a heavy material having a density greater than  $1.0 \text{ (g/cm}^3\text{) g/cm}^3$ , ~~coated with~~ covered by a water proof coating, ~~wherein said skimmer basket weight is configured to have a circular outer periphery with a hollow opening for allowing water flowing through said hollow opening, said circular outer periphery having a diameter substantially matching an inner diameter of a bottom of a skimmer basket; and wherein said skimmer basket weight has a sufficient weight to prevent said skimmer basket from floating when a pool pump is off.~~

2. (Currently amended) The skimmer basket weight of Claim 1, wherein said heavy material is one selected from the group consisting of metal, concrete, high density plastic, and other high density materials having a density greater than  $1.0 \text{ g/cm}^3$ .

3. (Original) The skimmer basket weight of Claim 2, wherein said water proof coating is one selected from the group consisting of plastic, rubber, and paint.

4. (Original) The skimmer basket weight of Claim 3, wherein said skimmer basket weight is greater than 0.5 pound.

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5. (Original) The skimmer basket weight of Claim 4, wherein said hollow opening is circular.

6. (Original) The skimmer basket weight of Claim 5, wherein said hollow opening has a diameter in a range from about 90 to about 120 millimeters.

7. (Original) The skimmer basket weight of Claim 6, wherein said skimmer basket weight has a height in a range from about 10 to about 50 millimeters.

8. (Currently amended) A skimmer basket assembly comprising:

(a) a skimmer basket,

(b) a skimmer basket weight comprising a heavy material having a density greater than 1.0 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, covered by a water proof coating, wherein said skimmer basket weight is configured to have a circular outer periphery with a hollow opening for allowing water flowing through said hollow opening, said circular outer periphery having a diameter substantially matching an inner diameter of a bottom of a skimmer basket; and wherein said skimmer basket weight has a sufficient weight to prevent said skimmer basket from floating when a pool pump is off, and

(c) a fastening means enabling affixing said skimmer basket weight to said bottom of said skimmer basket.

9. (Currently amended) The skimmer basket weight of Claim 8, wherein said heavy material is one selected from the group consisting of metal, concrete, high density plastic, and other high density materials having a density greater than 1.0 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

10. (Original) The skimmer basket weight of Claim 9, wherein said skimmer basket weight is greater than 0.5 pound.

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11. (Original) The skimmer basket weight of Claim 10, wherein said hollow opening has a diameter in a range from 90 to 120 millimeters.

12. (Currently amended) A weight containing skimmer basket comprising a basket configured for a swimming pool skimmer well and a weight connected to a bottom of said basket, said weight comprising a heavy material having a density greater than 1.0 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, covered by a water proof coating, wherein said weight is configured to have a circular outer periphery with a hollow opening for allowing water flowing through said hollow opening, said circular outer periphery having a diameter substantially matching an inner diameter of a bottom of a skimmer basket; and wherein said skimmer basket weight has a sufficient weight to prevent said skimmer basket from floating when a pool pump is off.

13. (Currently amended) The weight containing skimmer basket of Claim 12, wherein said heavy material is one selected from the group consisting of metal, concrete, high density plastic, and other high density materials having a density greater than 1.0 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

14. (Original) The weight containing skimmer basket of Claim 13, wherein said skimmer basket is greater than 0.5 pound.

15. (Currently amended) A method of preventing a skimmer basket from floating comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a skimmer basket weight, said skimmer basket weight comprising a heavy material having a density greater than 1.0 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, covered by a water proof coating, being configured to have a circular outer periphery with a hollow opening for allowing water flowing through said hollow opening, said circular outer periphery having a diameter substantially matching an inner

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diameter of a bottom of a skimmer basket; and said skimmer basket weight having a sufficient weight to prevent said skimmer basket from floating when a pool pump is off, and

(b) placing said skimmer basket weight inside said skimmer basket and having said skimmer basket weight placed at a bottom of said skimmer basket.

16. (Original) The method of preventing a skimmer basket from floating of Claim 15 further comprising affixing said skimmer basket weight to said skimmer basket.

17. (Original) The method of preventing skimmer basket floating of Claim 16, wherein said skimmer basket weight is affixed to said bottom of said skimmer basket by tie straps.